

Boston, 21 Cornhill, Dec., 28, 1858.

Dear Miss Estlin,

I shall poorly pay the debt I owe you, in the way of correspondence, by anything which I can now write; but I am sending to Mrs. Stephens by tomorrow's steamer an acknowledgment of the remittance which she made ^{to me} as the contribution of friends in Bristol, &c. to the American Anti-Slavery Society, and I cannot but also acknowledge your kind and welcome note which came at the same time, and thank you for it. I thought I saw that it had some internal evidence that you are better in health, and I hope it will prove that your more quiet life and fewer cares and anxieties will contribute materially & increasingly to your continued improvement. The remembrance of our Bristol friends is dear to us. I rejoice in, and am thankful for, those who have steadfastly continued in the faith, & ^{who have} witnessed this year as heretofore a good confession. I am sorry for those who have turned aside to help lift up the hands of Frederick Douglass, a selfish man, a false accuser, and a mischief-maker. I am bound to believe that they have been persuaded to the contrary of this, but their persuasion and their readiness to excuse him do not alter the facts. But it is altogether best to take the least possible notice of him & his supporters. What good they are doing, by their special movement, I know not. All they do in helping fugitive slaves and the like would be sure to be done without their organization, and they have no means or methods of influencing the public mind which are not too dearly bought by the mischievous notions they are instilling, and the narrow prejudices and false ideas which they promote. I should suppose that Mary Carpenter would have been sufficiently clear on this point. — We have heard that Philip C. was coming over here this winter; but as yet we hear nothing of him.

There will be two passengers in the Steamer Arabia tomorrow in whom we abolitionists feel much interest. As the older Soldier in the cause, I may name first my worthy cousin, the Rev. Samuel J. May, of Syracuse, N.Y. After a ministry of almost 40 years, and an antislavery life of great earnestness and fidelity of near 30 years, he & his friends find his health so much impaired that they have almost constrained him to draw off from his work, and go away. His oldest son is now in England awaiting his father's arrival, when they will speedily proceed (I believe) to the South of Europe, where they will spend the winter. But in pleasant summer weather he means to be in England again, - to which country he is the most strongly drawn; and I hope he will be well enough to do some preaching and some Anti-slavery speaking. Oh! I wish he could have gone to England in your father's time. I have given him two notes of introduction for Bristol, one to yourself, the other to Mr. Carpenter; and I wish very much that he may see you. He has had some correspondence with Mr. James (to whom I would send my best respects,) and would like to see him. - The other passenger is Sarah P. Remond, a sister of Charles L. Remond. She goes direct to Dublin, & is to make home I believe with Mary Shackleton, a friend of Webb's, who has been in this country, & with whom Sarah Remond formed an acquaintance and friendship. Sarah is a very excellent person. She is quite well-informed, is lady-like in spirit & manners, an intelligent and devoted abolitionist. Within a year past, she has been a good deal in the way of public speaking; and without laying any claim (for she is a diffident person, and not bold) to special ability or to any pre-eminence as a speaker, she certainly has always & everywhere made an impression very favourable, both to herself and the cause she maintains. She has told us next to nothing of what her plans are, in Gt. Britain. But I doubt not she intends to attempt something in the way of public speaking. The antislavery folk will hear her kindly, I am sure; and the rest cannot fail to discern a depth of sound and sincere feeling in what she may say, which will awaken sympathy and respect for the speaker. - I have told her she must, if possible, go to Bristol, and to Edinburgh, and to see yourself and the Wigham ladies. Thus we shall feel, you see, much concerned for the welfare of the "Arabia".

You spoke kindly of my
letter in the December Advocate, though perhaps a little sarcasm was
involved in ^{what you said} ~~your speaking~~ of the corrupt & corrupting character of political
struggles, after the rather inflated way in which I had been speaking of
the Fall Elections, &c. &c. If so, it was called for, and I haven't a word of
objection to make. I ought to have discriminated between political &
moral anti-slavery, more than I did. I felt this instantly on
glancing over the letter in the Advocate, and was rather ashamed of
much of it, and I shall accept your admonition as needed, if
not intended. All these political successes are more apparent, than
real. The Nation is not converted, - anything else. It is not penitent,
it is not ashamed of its wickedness and cruelty. Its hard is heart,
and God has yet to deal with this land, with his severest scourgings.
Never did a people sin against such light, such knowledge, nor so belie
their own declarations, professions, and claims. Nothing short of a radical
repentance, a thorough change, a mighty labour to overthrow slavery, can save it

Wife

Mrs. Chapman told me, last evening, that not one of the European contributions reached the Philadelphia Fair in season! This is truly trying. A very fair sum however was raised, - some \$1500. - We shall get more particulars soon. Most sincerely do I respond, to your wish that we might have some communion and conference together on

all the subjects which have so long been familiar between us. Very often do I wish it, and wish that our homes were within a convenient walk of each other. But that cannot be, and we must be content that it is so; and very glad am I that I can, from time to time, be favoured with letters from such friends as yourself, R. D. Webb, & Eliza Wigham, who are now our only foreign correspondents in the faith of Antislavery. What is Mr. Steinthal doing now? I hear nothing of him. Nor of Francis Bishop. I remain, as ever, dear friend, Truly Yours
Samuel May Jr.